# METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE HOLY SAVIOR

- The present cathedral is built on the site of a cathedral which burned in 1956.
- March 31, 1980 (Palm Sunday) – place of the funeral of the assassinated Archbishop Oscar Romero and his tomb is located there.
- 1992- The square in front of the Cathedral was the site of the Chapultepec Peace Accords that ended the Salvadoran Civil War
- March 19, 1999- the present cathedral was completed & inaugurated; it has been twice visited by Pope John Paul II.
- Had a colorful façade of 2700 tiles of Salvadoran folk art. The tiles were totally destroyed in12/2012 at the direction of the current archbishop.
- The main altar features an image of the Divine Savior donated by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V in 1546, and is surrounded by 8 large paintings of scenes of the life of Christ.

- The image rests upon a 4-column *baldachino* (canopy) surrounded by images of Moses and Elijah.
- The cupola is 148 'high with a 79" radius in an elaborate Spanish baroque style known as *churrigueresque*.

# SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

- The capital city of El Salvador, it is the most populated municipality and the country's most important political/financial/cultural/educational center.
- Located in the Salvadoran highlands, it is surrounded by volcanoes and is in an area prone to earthquakes.
- Founded April 1 1525, its site has changed 2 times; original Spanish colonial period structures are non-existant because of earthquakes.
- Population 281,870 (2014): 86% mestizo, 12 % white or creole of mostly Spanish ancestry
- 56% is Roman Catholic; 29% are Protestants of mostly evangelical denominations and a considerable Mormon community

- St. Matthew Missions to El Salvador:

  December, 2001- after earthquakes

  March, 2003 - to build a food center

  April, 2004 – to dig a foundation for the chapel in a mission parish

  February, 2005 – to meet with parishioners as a community to help plan the building of community gardens and do soil testing and to teach how to dowse for water